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Silver-leaf disease.—BROOKS[48] has investigated, through inoculation experiments, the silver-leaf disease of fruit trees and other plants, which is said to be more serious in England each year. As the name implies, the foliage of the host becomes silvery in appearance, in striking contrast with the dark green of healthy leaves. *Stereum purpureum* was reputed to be the causal organism, and inoculations of branches of plum trees with its sporophores resulted in silvering. The mycelium was also grown from spores in pure cultures and inoculations with it caused silvering. The conclusion seems safe that this parasite is the active agent in producing the disease in England.—J. M. C.

Lodgepole pine forests.—From a study of the forests of Boulder Park, Colo., MISS BRUDERLIN[49] concludes that the lodgepole pine represents the climax forest formation on the moderate slopes, although none of the trees is over 150 years old and forest fires have frequently occurred in the past. The close relationship found existing between fires and the occurrence of this species seems to agree with the conclusions of CLEMENTS presented in a paper recently reviewed in this journal.[50] The presence of Engelmann spruce, especially in more moist situations, suggests that were the fires prevented the lodgepole pine would be succeeded by more mesophytic conifers.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Michigan fungi.—KAUFFMAN[51] has shown what can be done by some field study of fungi during a single season, and the season of 1910 in Michigan was far from favorable. There were discovered 15 species of Ascomycetes and 77 species of Basidiomycetes hitherto unreported from the state. He has also stimulated the interest in observing fungi by the publication of outline keys to the common genera of these fungi, for the ability to recognize a fungus helps to keep the interest alive. These keys, extending through 27 pages, form the bulk of the contribution, and should meet the immediate needs of those who do not have access to the larger publications.—J. M. C.

Ophioglossum and Pinus.—Miss STOPES,[52] in her examination of cretaceous plants, has discovered that the impressions known as *Ophioglossum granulatum* do not represent that genus, and that the American specimens are staminate strobili of *Pinus*, the so-called "granules" being winged pollen grains. Accordingly the author gives the new name *Pinus granulata*, which may not be the same species as the Greenland specimens called *Ophioglossum granulatum.* This is another illustration of the great caution necessary in using the determinations of impressions or casts as the basis of conclusions in reference to the history of a group.—J. M. C.

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[48] BROOKS, F. T., "Silver-leaf" disease. Jour. Agric. Sci. **4**:133–144. 1911.

[49] BRUDERLIN, KATHERINE, A study of the lodgepole pine forests of Boulder Park (Tolland, Colo.). Univ. Colorado Studies **8**:265–275. 1911.

[50] BOT. GAZ. **51**:234. 1911.

[51] KAUFFMAN, C. H., Unreported Michigan fungi for 1910, with outline keys of the common genera of Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes. Report Mich. Acad. Sci. 215–249. 1911.

[52] STOPES, MARIE C., On the true nature of the cretaceous plant *Ophioglossum granulatum* Heer. Ann. Botany **25**:903–907. *figs. 2.* 1911.

Classification of plants.—Professor BESSEY[53] has issued a second edition of his *Outlines of plant phyla*, the first having been noted in BOT. GAZ. **51**:317. 1911, where it was stated that plants were grouped into 14 coordinate phyla, and their names were given. The present edition contains an interesting census, the enumeration of species, in terms of the four conventional groups, being as follows: thallophytes 79,450 (64,000 of which are fungi); bryophytes 16,000; pteridophytes 4524; spermatophytes 133,040 (only 540 of which are gymnosperms). The total is 233,614 species, distributed among 648 families.—J. M. C.

Vestigial axillary strands of Trichomanes.—It has been known for some time that vestigial axillary strands occur among the Hymenophyllaceae, in addition to the general occurrence of axillary branches. Miss CHAMBERS[54] has examined material of *Trichomanes javanicum* from the Fiji Islands and finds the axillary vestige ending in a conical mass of parenchyma, which suggests the last vestige of an axillary bud. The important fact is that comparable situations in *Helminthostachys* and the Botryopterideae suggest that Botryopterideae, Ophioglossaceae, and Hymenophyllaceae "are in one circle of affinity."—J. M. C.

Discomycetes of Iowa.—SEAVER[55] has brought together in very attractive form the available information in reference to the discomycetous flora of Iowa. It is intended mainly as a guide to local students, and therefore is in manual form, with keys and full descriptions. There are presented 126 species and 56 genera. This average of approximately two species to a genus, 23 of the genera being represented by a single species and the largest one by only 11, indicates that the generic boundaries in the group are rather closely drawn about the species.—J. M. C.

Seeds of Bennettitales.—WIELAND[56] has sectioned an unusually well preserved specimen of *Cycadeoidea* obtained recently from the Black Hills region (near Hermosa), and makes it the occasion for bringing the seed

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[53] BESSEY, CHARLES E., Outlines of plant phyla. 2d ed. pp. 20. Private publication. 1911.

[54] CHAMBERS, HELEN S., The vestigial axillary strands of *Trichomanes javanicum* Bl. Ann. Botany **25**:1037–1043. *figs. 4.* 1911.

[55] SEAVER, FRED J., Iowa Discomycetes. Bull. Lab. Hist. Univ. Iowa **62**:41–131. *pls. 16.* 1911.

[56] WIELAND, G. R., A study of some American fossil cycads. V. Further notes on seed structures. Amer. Jour. Sci. IV. **32**:133–155. *figs. 9.* 1911.